Auto-stereoscopic devices, which utilize one optical system to provide a stereo effect, are also known in the art. Such a device is provided in US patent no. 5,603,687 to Hori et al., which is directed to a device with two parallel optical axis and two CCD elements. Hori selected an asymmetrical approach, wherein one optical channel has a large aperture for light and details and the other optical channel provides a parallax image for stereoscopic imagery to the proximal CCD.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10, with the following:

US patent no. 5,613,936 to Czarnek et al., is directed to a stereoscopic endoscope device which utilizes light polarization and time multiplexing in order to transmit each different polarized image corresponding to left and right images multiplexed in time, through one optical channel that transfers images from the lateral side of the endoscope shaft. This endoscope has to be inserted deeper into the human cavity to receive a stereo image. It must also be used with a head mounted display device called" switched shutter glasses" that causes eye irritation. It is noted that according to Czarnek each image is received in 25% of original quality. As much as 50% of the light received fro the object, is lost due to polarization considerations and as much as 50% of the remaining information is lost due to channel switching.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 22, with the following:

US patent 5,588,948, to Takahashi et al., is directed to a Stereoscopic Endoscope. The stereo effect is produced by having a dividing pupil shutter, which splits the optical path onto the left and right sides, and the up and down sides. These sides are alternatively projected on a proximal image pickup device, using time multiplexing. According to another aspect of this

reference includes a distal CCD, which is divided to left and right sides with a shading member separating them, for achieving space multiplexing.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13, with the following:

U.S. Patent no. 5,800,341 to Mckenna et al, who is directed to an "Electronically Steerable Endoscope", which provides different fields of view, without having to move the endoscope, using a plurality of CCD cells and processing means. U.S. Patent no. 5,825,534 to Strahle, is directed to a "Stereo Endoscope having a Folded Sight Line" including stereo-endoscope optical channel, having a sight line folded relative to tube axis.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16, with the following:

US patent No. 5,812,187 to Watanabe, is directed to an Electronic Endoscope Apparatus. This device provides a multi-color image using a monochromatic detector and a mechanical multi-wavelength-illuminating device. The monochromatic detector detects an image, each time the multi-wavelength-illuminating device produces light at a different wavelength.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to make minor editorial corrections to the specification.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.